

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission
April 22, 2015
10:30 a.m.

James R. Thompson Center
Murdock Room - IDHS
Suite 5-300
100 West Randolph Street
Chicago, IL 60601

and

Lincoln Land Training Center
130 W. Mason Street
Room 104
Springfield, Illinois

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Commissioners

In Chicago

Chair Rose Mary Bombela-Tobias
Duke Alden
Robert A. Cantone
Hamilton Chang
Nabi Fakhroddin
Lauren Beth Gash
Diane M. Viverito
David J. Walsh
Patricia Bakalis Yadgir

In Springfield

Terry Cosgrove

Absent

None

Staff

LaNade Bridges
N. Keith Chambers
Dr. Ewa Ewa
Michael Evans
Donyelle L. Gray
Evelio Mora
Byron Wardlaw
Christine M. Welninski

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Members of Public: None

NOTICE:

Public and closed meetings of the Illinois Human Rights Commission are audio recorded.

I. Call to Order

On April 22, 2015 at 10:30 a.m., Chair Bombela-Tobias called to order a meeting of the Illinois Human Rights Commission.

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., it was determined that:

- 1) A quorum of the public body was present at the meeting.
- 2) Prior to the meeting, Commissioner Chang gave notice to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Donyelle Gray that he would participate via telephone until his physical arrival. Motion to allow Commissioner Chang to participate via telephone until his arrival made by Commissioner Gash, seconded by Commissioner Nabi. Motion carried 9-0.

II. Consideration of Minutes

February 25, 2015

The Commission voted to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2015 meeting as submitted by staff. Motion to approve the February 25, 2015 minutes as submitted by staff made by Commissioner Cantone and seconded by Commissioner Walsh. Motion carried 9-0.

Commissioner Chang arrived after the approval of the minutes.

III. Chair's Report

Rose Mary Bombela-Tobias, Chairman

The April 22, 2015 meeting was the first meeting for newly appointed Chair Bombela-Tobias. Chair Bombela-Tobias introduced herself to the Commission and provided a brief summary of her background.

IV. Staff Reports

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A. N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director (Oral Update)

Mr. Chambers greeted the new Chair as well as the two newly appointed Commissioners Duke Alden and Hamilton Chang.

Mr. Chambers reported that the budget hearings before the Illinois General Assembly have concluded. The meetings with the Senate and House committees went smoothly. Mr. Chambers further reported that the Commission was approved for a flat budget and there will be no new money for the Commission.

Mr. Chambers reported that State Government is still in transition. Mr. Chambers met with the Governor's cabinet in late February and he indicated that the reporting structure for reporting to the Governor's office is being developed.

Mr. Chambers reported that he has met with other state agencies concerning a contingency plan for a possible labor action on or about June 30, 2015. The contract between the State of Illinois and the state employees' union is due to expire on the above mentioned date. If there is a strike, the HRC will receive notice of the strike in May 2015.

Mr. Chambers reported that there is no new legislation or pending legislation concerning the Commission.

B. Dr. Ewa I. Ewa, Chief Fiscal Officer

Dr. Ewa reported that the Senate and House budget meetings went well.

Dr. Ewa reported that there are no major problems. However there will be a restriction on spending for major items.

Dr. Ewa reported that the Commission's FY15 budget is progressing well. There will be no major expenditures with the exception of purchasing the remaining computers for the Commission.

Dr. Ewa reported that the Commission's FY16 budget is a lump sum amount that includes expenditures for the Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission. There will not be sufficient funds to fill HRC staff vacancies for FY16.

C. Michael J. Evans, Chief Administrative Law Judge

Chief Administrative Law Evans gave the report for the month of March 2015.

D. Donyelle Gray, General Counsel

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Ms. Gray welcomed the new Chairman and new Commissioners.

Ms. Gray announced that the next panel meetings will be Panels A and B. These panels are scheduled to meet on May 20, 2015. Ms. Gray informed the Commission that Panel B would be short one Commissioner and asked for a volunteer to sit in the panel. Commissioner Gash volunteered to fill in for May 20th Panel B.

Ms. Gray distributed orientation materials to the Commissioners. In order to provide the new Commissioners with an opportunity to ask questions regarding the materials before sitting on their first panels—with Commissioner Alden being on Panel A and Commissioner Chang on Panel B--Ms. Gray suggested that the May 2015 *En Banc* meeting be re-scheduled to 9:30 a.m. from the original time of 10:30 a.m.. Thereafter, Panel A would meet at 10:30 a.m., and Panel B would meet at 11:30 a.m. The Commissioners by consensus agreed to this modification.

Ms. Gray reported that three Commissioner positions were still vacant and that several panels are short of Commissioners. Commissioners Cosgrove and Cantone volunteered to fill in panel vacancies.

Ms. Gray gave general reminders to the Commissioners about Economic Interest declarations, ethics training, and timesheets.

Ms. Gray distributed recent Labor Law updates.

Ms. Gray distributed a Commission contact list and asked the Commissioners to contact her regarding information that needed to be changed.

Ms. Gray also reminded the Commissioners to contact her for identification cards, to forward bios and photos for the HRC website and that all panel materials were available on the Commission's Sharepoint site.

V. New Business

None

VI. Old Business

None

VII. Public Comment

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., the meeting was open for public comment. No members of the public were present, and no public comments were made.

VIII. Executive Session

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Executive Session

Pursuant to 5 ILCS §120/2(c)(11) and 5 ILCS § 120/2(c)(21) of the Open Meetings Act, the Commissioners voted to close a portion of the public meeting at 11:09 a.m. in order to discuss pending litigation and minutes of a previously closed meeting. Motion made by Chair Bombela-Tobias, seconded by Commissioner Nabi. Motion carried 10-0.

At 11:30 a.m., the open meeting resumed.

Items out of Executive Session

During the open portion of the meeting, the Commission voted to approve the executive session minutes of January 28, 2015, as submitted by staff and announced that the January 28, 2015 executive session minutes would remain confidential, and thus not yet subject to public disclosure. Motion to approve the executive session minutes of January 28, 2015 as submitted by staff made by Commissioner Cantone and seconded by Commissioner Nabi. Motion carried 10-0.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Cosgrove, seconded by Commissioner Cantone. Motion carried 10-0.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ DONYELLE L. GRAY
Donyelle L. Gray
General Counsel